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JOHN E. FETZER GLOBAL CONFERENCE SPEECH – 1988

To follow Mr. Rockefeller is a difficult and demanding assignment. That's especially true, since much of what I have to say concerning the Fetzer Foundation's entry into the unknown has been said before, and better, by others here at this conference. While I have no pride of authorship, I have decided to touch upon our approach to the exploration in uncharted waters.

Perhaps it's a little like the lady who lost her husband, after many years of a very happy marriage. In her grief, she, too, decided to explore the unknown. After some searching, she found a fortune teller who claimed that he could contact persons who had entered afterlife. She was delighted that almost instantaneous contact was established with her husband, John. She expressed her love and he responded in kind, and she inquired what it was like over there where he was; and John explained that it was most beautiful with rolling hills, sweeping valleys, and gave an extended description of his surroundings, ending with the remark that there was a [were the?] most beautiful fleecy clouds you ever saw. Whereupon she said, "Why John, I didn't know they had clouds in heaven." And John responded, "Heaven! Goodness no! I'm not in heaven. I'm a bull in the Argentine." So exploration into the unknown does have its surprises.

I suspect that the wide spectrum of priorities advanced by our speakers may have had some mixed reaction which, of course, is most appropriate when you consider our challenging theme, helping heal the whole person and the whole world. On the other hand, the same challenge was administered to the father of medicine, often credited to Hippocrates. However, it is a fact that the Hippocratic Oath, which has stood the test of time, still anchors our present day medical practice in the West, yet recognizes that our natural human state is one of health, hearty wholeness, that we are made for harmony and wellness.

And in my view, the task of every person is to discover that natural process, and to aid and to assist it. Health is a unified flow and function of a finite creative system that is self-correcting and sustaining. Living is giving. This is a cosmic order which, radiating through our body, mind, and spirit, confirms our health, guides our giving, and celebrates our living as a succession of acts of sacred service to humanity. We were meant to be spent. Healing and health are part of that higher arithmetic, where we multiply by dividing. We are enriched by what we give away.

As a young radio engineer, I learned this lesson quite early. Energy was measured by the power behind the signal. Systems were designed to give out, radiate, broadcast,

transmit. Those worked best which had efficient workmanship, the highest tower, the lightest radiation. So it is with us. We can only keep that which we truly give away, and the less encumbered, the more freely given, the higher the energy flow becomes. Every act of giving, every philanthropic foundation, and especially one designed to facilitate health and healing such as the Fetzer Foundation, confirms the Hippocratic Oath, the ministry of healing, to get out of the way of a natural process of creative living giving. Several practical experiences and theoretical convictions confirm this perspective on health and healing.

A short exercise in spelling the word health may explain what I have to say. My selection includes H for hope, E for energy, A for attitude, L for love, T for trust, and H for happiness. These seem to be the key words that have been heard often at this conference. And we express hope. It becomes the climate and the condition of expectation that makes healing and health possible. The testimony of several of our speakers, Drs. Siegel, Jampolsky and Cousins confirm by clinical evidence this is so. My own experience confirms it. A number of years ago I had a heart attack. A young physician blithely told me that I would have a second heart attack within a year, and it probably would prove to be fatal. I said, "Well, I beg your pardon young man, that's not my style." I told him that my belief system simply wouldn't accommodate that, whereupon I gave him an elementary exercise on biofield energy medicine; and that probably did me more good than it did him, because I don't think he heard me.

But the truth is, I recognized the necessity for change, and immediately inaugurated a program of positive energy beginning with a big E. I took myself in hand, knowing that the proper use of energy is the application of dynamic force field, which is its function, and describes and prescribes a state of health for one. I took full responsibility for my recovery and I added a big A for attitude. I began to advance confidently and to build castles. Dreams were necessary, of course, to fulfillment. I mustered up a program that had wellness spelled all over it. I wanted to believe that recovery was possible. I altered my lifestyle.

I discovered that the quality of life must be changed and that I had to fight off fear, depression, hopelessness, panic, despair, and infuse a constant stream of positive affirmations. Faith, confidence, laughter, creativity, and picturization became the order of the day. Well, since I'm still here, you can see that I have declined to participate in the young physician's prognostication. And may I add as a footnote that this experience has helped me to understand why I have been on this planet for 87 years.

To continue the spelling exercise, what better word could one select for the letter L than the most-honored theme of this conference, and that is the word love. Love is the unifying energy field that mobilizes the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual resources in caring and sharing with another. It is an attraction of amplitude, a resonance of renewal. My understanding of the true love experience becomes evidential when I tell you the story of my wife, who passed away recently.

For several years she had been hospitalized in a terminal state of health. She no longer could talk, and much of the time she seemed to be resigned to her plight. Initially, as this illness developed, I became bitter and cynical, followed by long periods of tears and heartbreak at the enormous loss. Constantly I sought to liberate myself from the imprisonment and hypnotizing chain of events. In an effort to handle my hidden wounds, I began to review her life story. I began to see her fine qualities, how sensitive, compassionate, considerate, thoughtful, merciful, and gracious person she always was. I remember that during our lives together, I never heard her say anything harmful about another, and always willing to forgive ill-advisement.

I finally came to the realization that it was these very characteristics that were giving her the courage to stay on for an extended period of time. I realized that she was giving me support during a critical time in my life. We were so in tune and in complete resonance, that words were not necessary in our communication. It was complete. In short, she extended to me day after day, hour after hour, her unconditional love, and this became mutually exclusive. Myers has said that love is a kind of exalted but unspecialized telepathy, the simplest and the most universal expression of that mutual gravitation, or kinship of spirits, which is the foundation of telepathic law. I think I can say with candor that these personal experiences have helped to solidify my understanding of our Foundation's mission.

I'd like to sum up this expression by using the last two letters, the T and the H, from our key word health, by referring to trust and happiness as consequential attributes. Trust is an act of confident loyalty. It affirms what it requires and that is dependability to the universe, the process and the quality of caring and sharing, which establishes a healing bond with another. The word Happiness confirms the totality of my remarks, because it brings me a sense of balance, which is the essence of the Foundation's endeavor to impact the world order. The Foundation was established to pursue a health program designed to discover the integral relationships of the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of humankind, to enhance partnerships and resources, alliances and global networking, educational programs, and basically to open the door to research in the biofield energy medicine which investigates the energetic mechanisms of a total organism. As far as I know, there is no other foundation of substance that has such a daring agenda.

In saying this as a layman, I have a great advantage, because when I hear loud voices telling me that it can't be done, I simply don't know what they mean. I do understand that this program represents one of the longest running scientific debates in history. Although Greek civilization did not use the word 'electronics' as a mechanism to describe subtle energy forces; the subject was dealt with then as we choose to do so now but in alternate terms, possibly in the light of quantum physics. The interaction of consciousness with our physical environment introduces mind in a fundamental way, and suggests a framework to answer cosmological questions. In my view, living things

represent a form of transmission, reception and amplification of electronic wave forms, and faces head on the question that, as a dynamic force of energy, we are much more than mere chemical machines.

The challenge, when we face this fact, is that often hardline science dares spirit to become evidential. At the same time, spiritual mind and philosophy often looks at science as an unnecessary evil. We must recognize that both viewpoints have the right to exist where there is a mutuality of purpose, and that integration between the concepts is a crying need. Numerous models have been instructed since time immemorial. No doubt additional scenarios will emerge, as fields such as psychology and neurophysiology continue to develop. I believe most any regimen involving several combinations of meditation, contemplative thought, simple nutrition, physical exercises, and personal discipline lead individuals into a more balanced, integrated, and harmonious spiritual life.

What is missing, from a scholarly point of view, is that the personal belief systems that individuals use to create harmony in life, while individually satisfying, are in contradiction globally. All of them seem to work, even though the proponents of each plainly have found the ‘only’ way. It becomes apparent that we still do not know the basic underlying processes that have caused life on this planet to have evolved to the point of producing an intelligent, evolving, self-reflective being such as a human. And both classical science and classical religion are, more often than not, looking in the wrong directions to find compatibility.

Einstein correctly pointed out that a paradox can never be solved on the same level from which it was created. There is an enormous wealth of data waiting to be brought together, and we would like to think that our Foundation effort will effectively address these issues over a period of time. As of now, in an effort to touch the tip of the iceberg, the Foundation supports a multiplicity of programs, including research at Harvard, Princeton, Purdue, University of California, and the Menninger Foundation. It is our hope that this research will contribute to the ongoing integration of the disciplines in the support of energy medicine.

When that becomes reality, it will be self-evident that such tools as detection, perception, understanding, knowledge, and wisdom will have been employed to redefine reality in new terms. Just as in progressive stages, it was detection that inspired Marconi to transmit “What hath God wrought?” across the Atlantic by wireless telegram. So it was perception that inspired Graham Bell to use voice as a substitute for coded telegram; and it was understanding of such progress that gave Lee de Forest the idea of the three-element vacuum tube that led to radio voice transmission. It was this knowledge that led David Sarnoff and others to develop television. Finally, it was the resultant wisdom of all of this that brought on the chip, the computer, and filled the skies with satellites and a multiplicity of electronic instrumentation that is the wonder of our times.

And so, to summarize, the John E. Fetzer Foundation supports and provides research, education, and action designed to discover and enhance the integral relationships of the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of experience, which fosters human growth, service, and responsible improvement of the human and cosmic condition. And I would hope, to paraphrase Arthur Eddington, that we have found a strange footprint on the shores of the unknown. We have devised profound theories, one after another, to account for its origin. At last, we have succeeded in a reconstruction of a creature that made the footprint and, lo, it is our own.

Thank you.